

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 1-13, 15-19, 22, 33, and 35-45 are canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these canceled claims in one or more continuation applications. Claims 14, 20, 21, 23-32, and 34 are pending in this application.

Inventorship

Upon review of the application file, a typographical error in Efstathios Papaefstathiou's name was identified. Pursuant to MPEP §605.04(b), Applicant respectfully submits that no petition is necessary to correct this typographical error. An application data sheet is being submitted with the correct spelling of the inventors' names.

Specification

In the August 18, 2005 Office Action, the specification was objected to due to informalities. Particularly, the serial number of the co-pending application should be identified. As part of this response, the specification has been amended to include this serial number.

Additionally, the specification has been amended to claim priority to a prior-filed application. Accompanying this response is a petition to accept this unintentionally delayed priority claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 14 stands allowed.

Claims 22-24 and 35 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As part of this response, claim 22 has been incorporated into its base claim, claim 20. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20, as well as claims 21 and 23-32 depending from claim 20, are in condition for allowance.

Additionally, claim 35 has been incorporated into its base claim, claim 34. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 34 is in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 15-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Claims 15-19 have been canceled without prejudice. These claims have been canceled in order to expedite issuance of the allowable claims in the present application. These claim cancellations are not intended to be, and are not to be interpreted as, an admission that Applicant agrees with the rejections of claims 15-19.

As claims 15-19 have been cancelled, Applicant respectfully requests that the §101 rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-13 and 36-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-13 and 36-41 have been canceled without prejudice. These claims have been canceled in order to expedite issuance of the allowable claims in the present application. These claim cancellations are not intended to be, and are not to be interpreted as, an admission that Applicant agrees with the rejections of claims 1-13 and 36-41.

As claims 1-13 and 36-41 have been cancelled, Applicant respectfully requests that the §112 rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 38-41 and 42-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,850,538 to Steinman (hereinafter "Steinman"). Claims 38-41 and 42-45 have been canceled without prejudice. These claims have been canceled in order to expedite issuance of the allowable claims in the present application. These claim cancellations are not intended to be, and are not to be interpreted as, an admission that Applicant agrees with the rejections of claims 38-41 and 42-45.

Claims 1-2, 6-13, 15-19, 20-21, 25-32, 34, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,925,431 to Papaefstathiou (hereinafter "Papaefstathiou "). Claims 1-2, 6-13, 15-19, and 36 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 22. Claim 34 has been amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 35. These cancellations and amendments have been made to expedite issuance of the allowable claims in the present application. These cancellations and amendments are not intended to be, and are not to be

interpreted as, an admission that Applicant agrees with the rejections of claims 1-2, 6-13, 15-19, 20-21, 25-32, 34, and 36.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Claims 14, 20, 21, 23-32, and 34 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date:

2/15/06

By:

At-S

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